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WYNAD SPECIAL

JULY-AUGUST 1978

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ON THE COVER

The tribals at work in the Cardamom nursery raised with the technical assistance of the Cardamom Board for their resettlement at Pookkot under the Western Ghat Development Project.

Editorial

A UNIQUE CARDAMOM PROJECT

There is a felt need for expanding the area under cardamom in the light of greater demand for Indian Cardamom in the world market. With this view in mind the Board has taken up area expansion both in the traditional as well as non-traditional tracts. Although the area expansion is possible only on a limited scale in the traditional areas, the Board could make much headway in expanding the area under cardamom in Kerala. Under its technical assistance the Kerala Government have taken up development of two major cardamom plantation projects, one in Wynad in Calicut District and the other in Attappadi in Palghat District to the extent of 1500 hectares and 500 hectares respectively.

These projects are run by co-operative societies as part of the Western Ghat Development Scheme. Apart from utilising the vast resources of the area, the Wynad Developmenf Project also aims at a humanitarian cause— that of rehabilitating the tribal people in the area who remained illiterate and expolited thoughout the ages. Both as a cardamom plantation programme and as a welfare scheme, the targets of the programmes included in the project are the biggest of its kind ever known. when fully implemented, the wynad Development project spread over an area of 1500 hectares will be jointly owned by 750 tribal families and each settler will be owning 2 hectares.

The project is functioning with the substantial technical assistance and imputs supplied from the Board. Besides loaning the services of its technical personnel, the Board is also supplying seedlings to this agency for developing the plantations. It is expected that when fully implemented the scheme will result in the production of a minimum of about 175 M. T. of cardamom valued at Rs. 225 lakhs per annum — a new way of life for the tribals and an additional source of income to the nation. ●

Resettlement of Tribals in Wynad Project

N. K. KRISHNAN NAMBISAN
Deputy Collector (Wynad Development), Kalpetta.

Synonyms of natural beauty rises in our mind when we think of Wynad, the God-gifted panoramic land lying at an altitude of 900 to 2100 metres above mean sea level. The total area of North Wynad is 746.4 Sq. kms. and that of South Wynad is 1378.2 Sq. kms. According to the 1971 census the population in North Wynad and South Wynad is 129335 and 284314 respectively. 21.7% of the population in North Wynad and 14% of the population in South Wynad is scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. Of these, the plight of the Adivasi is most miserable. They are often susceptible to the exploitation of outside shylocks who squeeze them to the fullest extent possible. Sometimes for daily sustenance they borrow money from these exploiters at an exorbitant rate of interest of 500% to 1000%. They may sometimes have to give their properties in lieu to such dealings. However, the truth of the matter remains unknown even to the Adivasi. There is also another system of bartering, prevailing among the tribals. Here also the tribals stand to loose. They often get cheated in the matter of price, measurement etc. By the system of speculation, their produce is taken away from them even without their knowledge. Here again, the tribals do not even get the reasonable price. Eventhough minimum wages were introduced for the labourers it is not uncommon that the tribals are denied the fruit of this law implemented by the Government. There is also a large number of unemployed Adivasis.

The cardamom plantation project in South Wynad is intended to give solace to the Adivasis who have been exploited, throughout the ages. This project is implemented under the Western Ghat Development Scheme at an area of 1500 hectares in Achooranam Village in Kalpetta in Calicut District. The Government of Kerala has allotted Rs. 282.86 lakhs for the implementation of the scheme. At the end of the completion of the project 750 tribal families will be settled in the area and each family will be the owner of 2 hectares of car-

The tribals engaged in weeding operation in the primary nursery

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damom plantation. The total produce from these plantations will be marketed through a joint co-operative society in which the tribals are also members.

So far, 117 families have been rehabilitated in the project area. During the current year 640 hectares of land will be brought under cardamom cultivation. 8 lakhs of seedlings have been raised at the Pookottoor Nursery for this purpose.

This time-bound project is expected to be completed within a period of 4 years. A joint co-operative society has been registered for the smooth functioning of this project. Let us hope that at the end of the completion of the project, pokkottoor will develop into a Girijan township.

The total amount sanctioned by the Kerala Government for this project is as follows:

		Rs. in lakhs
1. Nursery and plantation	:	167.79
2. Staff	:	17.01
3. Loan assistance for capital	:	5.10
4. Working capital	:	2.31
5. Furniture	:	0.20
6. Housing for members	:	18.95
7. Office building for the co-operative society	:	1.00
8 Store	:	0.50
9. Warehouse and curing yard	:	15.00
10. Staff quarters	:	3.50
11. Road	:	10.00
12. Water supply	:	1.00
13 Vehicles	:	1.50
14. Office expenses	:	5.00
15. Subsistance allowance to members	:	15.00
16. Agricultural implements	:	0.45
17. Educational expenses to members	:	8.50
18. Leave salary	:	6.00
19. Welfare expenses to members	:	3.45
TOTAL	:	282.68

The tribal, from the wilderness into settled life

THE WYNAD HILLS

According to the 1971 census the population of South Wynad is 2,84,514 and that of North Wynad is 1,29,335. However, when compared to the neighbouring areas like Quilandy and Tellicherry the population in the vicinity of the forest is small. There has been a large influx of people for the last few decades from Travancore to this blessed land in search of a living from agriculture and this has contributed to the growth of population in this area. The arrival of the immigrants have changed the face of Wynad bringing a new life and culture. These people who are very enterprising and expert in cultivation have occupied large tracts of private forests belonging to the Jenmies and temples. Cardamom, coffee, tea, pepper, arecanut, rubber, orange and single crop paddy are the main crops of the area on which the agricultural economy is built up.

Topographically South Wynad can be made out into two different zones such as the foot hills adjoining the plains of which the elevation is around 300 meters. The other is the table-land of Wynad which gradually slopes down North to the Mysore plateau This table-land is undulating and dotted with rounded hills. The elevation of the hills forming the reserved forest in this area varies from 365 metres to 1436 metres above mean sea level. In 1806, the British came up to the possession of Wynad through the Peychy rebellion by right of conquest. There are two systems of rivers in the Wynad area – those which flow westward and join the Arabian sea and those which flow eastward and eventually join the cauvery which falls into the Bay of Bengal. The important westbound rivers are Chaliar Puzha, Iravanchi Puzha, Kuttiadi Puzha etc., and those that flow eastward are Mananthody Puzha, Nul Puzha Murmavu stream, Manjathode etc. Besides these, there are a number of small perennial streams throughout the forests. The climate on the plains and that on the plateau are quite different as could be judged by temperature, humidity and rainfall. The temperature, at the foot of the ghats is between 70° and 100°F. While on the plateau it is between 55° and 90°F December to April are the hottest months and mists are common from November to February on the plateau and at higher elevations The south-west monsoon which brings the greater part of the total rainfall bursts in the first week of June preceeded by a few showers in April and May. The north-east monsoon brings rain in October and November.

The natural forests of the South Wynad and North Wynad fall under two main types - the Southern tropical moist deciduous and the Western tropical wet evergreen. Captain Beddome, an officiating Conservator has in 1863 classed Wynad forests as one of the 12 first class fores in erstwhile Madras. The tot extent of the reserved forests the Wynad division is 33470.2 hectares and that of unreserve forest is 8080.34 hectares. Th important reserved forest range are Chedleth, Sultan Battery Thamarassery, Chaliam and Kutt adi. Besides these, there ar several private forests too. How ever, most of them have bee nationalised by the Governmen Teak, Rosewood, Pterocarpu marsupium etc., are the mai species of timber found in th area that can be marketed. Myso and kozhikode(comprising of Bey pore and Kallai) are the chie markets for the timber from thi area. It is estimated that in th past 60 per cent of the timbe marketed on the westcoast wen by sea route to Arabia, Karachi Kathiawar, Cutch and Bombay The common jungle fauna tha abound in these forests are wil elephants, one of the most impor tant animals in the country. (They are partially migratory, leaving Wynad in the heavy bursts o monsoon for the drier climate o Mysore). The Bisons roam about in herds. Tigers and leo pards, the carnivorous animals are now-a-days very few and rarely met with in Wynad. Bu one often hears of these animals making away with cattle from villages adjoining the forests Sambhur and spotted deer seen in large number in the deciduous forests with grassy under growth in Wynad are much sought afte

by the poachers. The wild boars which graze in the plateau, hills and the plains are a meance to the cultivation. There are several other wild life like Squirrels, Monkeys, Hares, Porcupines etc. Birds like Horn Bills, Peacocks, Thrushes, Pigeons, Parrots, Woodpeckers are seen plenty. Among reptiles, snakes both poisonous and non-poisonous are seen in the forests in fairly good numbers.

It is interesting to check the damages to which the forest is liable from wind, drought, parasites, grass and weeds, animals etc. However, the injuries done by man surpass all these. Damages caused to forests by men are in the form of illicit felling and peaching Setting fire to forests and the repeated lopping are other damages caused by man. However, it is pointed out that illicit felling of forest in the Wynad area is not much when compared to Travancore-Cochin area Centuries before the arrival of the British in India, ships built of Teak were carrying ebony, rosewood, cardamom and pepper from the westcoast of India to Persia and Arabia from where they found their way to Europe. It is probable that some of these timbers and spices came from Malabar and the Wynad.

The principal tribes in the forests of the plateau are the Chettis, the Paniyars, the Kurumbars and a few Nayakans

The Chettis live almost entirely in unreserves, their chief occupation being the cultivation of single crop paddy in swamps. They grow pepper, plantains coffee and oranges in gardens around their houses. Years ago, the Chettis were got down from Mysore State and allowed to stay here by the European officers to serve as a source of departmental workers.

The Paniyars are an aboriginal race owning the land but cultivating paddy flats belonging to the Chettis. They speak an aboriginal language and dialect of Malayalam.

The Kurumbars of the Wynad plateau fall under one or other of the 3 sub divisions -the Mulloo (Bamboo) Kurumbars, the Bet (felling) Kurumbars and the Jen (Honey) Kurumbars. Of the Mulloo Kurumbars are socially the most advanced. They cultivate wet lands and own cattle. The Bet Kurumbars are the local axeman par excellence. The Jen Kurumbars are the least civilized of the jungle tribes. They live on the forest, eating honey roots, fruits etc. These people as a class are independent and at the same time unreliable and fickle. Even under slight provocation whole families would migrate from one part of the forest to another.

—Ceepee

CARDAMOM PROJECT: ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year 1976–77 primary nursery has been raised in 8 acres and 8 lakhs of seedlings have been produced. A sum of Rs. 2, 66,000/– was spent during the year 1976-77 for black topping the road to the nursery. A sprinkler watering system has been installed at the nursery site at a cost of Rs. 36,943.28. A diesel jeep was purchased for the cardamom project. The total expenditure during the year 1976–77 is Rs. 6 35,069.20.

During the year 1977-78 secondary nursery has been started in 40 acres and 8 lakhs seedlings have been transplanted to the secondary nursery. Three sprinkler irrigation equipments have been installed to irrigate the secondary nursery at a cost of Rs.1,09, 124.00.

14120 seedlings purchased from the Cardamom Board have been planted in 30 acres. The total expenditure incurred during the year 1977 78 upto 22.3. 1978 is Rs. 10,78,' 10.56. In addition to this proposals have been submitted to the District Collector to move the Government to issue letter of credit for Rs. 2,27,600/- to the Executive Engineer. P. W. D. B & R Kozhikode for the work of improvements to the approach road to cardamom nursery at Pookkot. 117 beneficiary families have been selected during this year 1977-78. The Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies has registered the South Wynad Girijan Joint Farming Co-operative Society Ltd. No. D.2301 on 15 2.1978 and the society has started functioning on 9.3. 1978. Administrative and technical sanction has been accorded for the estimates prepared for the office and store of the society.

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MARKET FOR CARDAMOM :

KUWAIT

Following is an excerpt from the report on the market survey jointly carried out by Cardamom Board and International Trade Centre, Geneva in the selected Middle East and West European countries. This programme was financed by the Swedish International Development Authority. The team which conducted this investigation consisted of Shri N. Bharathan Pillai, Market Development Officer, Cardamom Board and Mr. Brian Mc Loughlin, Marketing Consultant, International Trade Centre. The report on other countries will be published in the forthcoming issues of "Cardamom". —Editor

Kuwait, with a population of pproximately one million, is one f the most important individual narkets for cardamom. Con umption by the indigenous popuation is high but of greater imortance is the role that Kuwait as played, and will continue to lay, as an importing and trading entre for the east and north-east f Saudi Arabia. Kuwait is a narket for high quality cardamom nd there are very limited opporunities for developing any other egments of the cardamom trade n this market.

MPORT HISTORY

Cardamom imports to Kuwait how a fairly consistent upward rend through the years 1971-975. Average growth in import olume has been around 5.4 per ent across the period - with a narked increase in volume grow-h in the most recent years. Full letails of imports by source are set out in Table-2. From these it can be seen that imports have grown from 709 tonnes in 1971 to 905 tonnes in 1975, a total increase of nearly 28 per cent, and the data for the eight months to August 1976 show a considerable acceleration of the growth trend. In these eight months — the latest for which import data is available—total imports of cardamom to Kuwait have exceeded the highest previous full year by over 9 per cent.

Within this volume growth pattern, it is of major significance that the share of India has shown a marked decline, while Guatemalan supplies have made major inroads, in share terms, into this important market.

TABLE — 1

Share of Imports — Volume Basis :

	1971 %	1972 %	1973 %	1974 %	1975 %	1976 * %
India	93.0	91.8	83.0	53.5	48.8	54.9
Guatemala	5.5	6.1	15.1	41.6	42.7	38.0
Sri Lanka	0 8	0.9	1.5	1.8	2.9	3.5
Tanzania	—	—	—	2,3	5.6	—
Others	0.7	1.2	0.4	0.8	—	3.6
Total:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*To August 1976

SOURCE: Compiled from National Foreign Trade Statistics—Kuwait.

TABLE — 2

Import of Cardamom into Kuwait – By Source :

Year	Source	Quantity (M.T.)	Value (Rs. '000s)	Value ($'000s)
1971	India	659.7	32,452	4,498.5
	Guatemala	39.0	2,324	322.2
	Thailand	2.8	153	21.2
	Sri Lanka	5.6	264	36.5
	U. S. A.	0.5	44	6.1
	Others	1.4	44	6.1
	Total :	709.0	35,281	4,890.6
1972	India	704.0	30,604	3,821.7
	Guatemala	47.0	2,185	272.9
	Sri Lanka	7.0	271	33.8
	Thailand	5.0	151	18.9
	U. A. E.	2.0	105	13.1
	Iran	Neg	24	3.0
	Singapore	Neg	18	2.2
	Total :	767.0	33,358	4,165.6
1973	India	569.3	42,867	5,272.7
	Guatemala	103 3	5,721	703.7
	Sri Lanka	10.3	711	87.5
	Japan	3.0	192	23.6
	Total :	685.9	49,491	6,087.5
1974	India	387.7	33,563	4,154.9
	Guatemala	301.5	18,305	2,266.0
	Sri Lanka	13.2	870	107.7
	Tanzania	16.8	544	67.4
	U. S, A.	6.0	326	40.4
	Total ;	725.2	53,609	6 636.4
1975	India	441.4	54,565	6,105.5
	Guatemala	386.4	34,776	3,891.2
	Sri Lanka	26.6	2,067	231.3
	Indonesia	0.4	30	3.4
	Tanzania	50.5	1,915	214.3
	Total :	905.3	93,353	10445.7
1976	India	542.3	75,033	8,448.7
(Up to	Guatemala	375.8	37,501	4,222.6
August	Sri Lanka	34.8	2,754	310.1
1976)	Others	34.9	1,547	174.2
	Total :	987.8	116 835	13,155.6

SOURCE : National Foreign Trade Statistics - Kuwait.

Thus, while India accounted for 93 per cent of imports in 1971, by 1975 this share had dropped to 49 per cent, while Guatemala has increased her share from under 6 per cent in 1971 to nearly 43 per cenr in 1975.

The implications in volume terms of this share trend, can be seen in Table-1. India has shown a decline in volume of sales in the more recent years, though there are signs of a marked recovery in volume terms in the first half of 1976. Part of this pattern can be accounted for by direct imports from India into Saudi Arabia. Kuwait has been a traditional supply source for cardamom to Saudi Arabia and while ports in that country have been congested, this segment of imports to Kuwait has been artificially high. However, this does not account for the whole of the fall in volume; Kuwait is a rapidly expanding market for high quality cardamom and Indian exporters are failing to capitalise on the market growth.

USAGE

Kuwait is primarily a market for high quality Alleppey Green Cardamom. The primary end use for cardamom in Kuwait is in the preparation of "Gahwa"- Bedouin-style cardamom coffee- where whole green cardamoms are ground with roasted coffee beans in a mix of approximately 50 per cent cardamom/50 per cent coffee and infused in hot weter to produce a highly distinctive beverage. Sometimes cinnamon is added to the mix.

Consumption of Gahwa is a deeply entrenched social custom in those parts of the Middl East

TABLE — 3

xport of Cardamom from India to Kuwait During 1971-72 to 1975-76:

ear	Grades	Quantity (M.T.)	Value (Rs.'000s)	($'000s)
971-72	Alleppey Green	632	22,826	2,685.4
	Coorg Green	22	908	106 8
	Bleached/Bleachable	24	949	111.6
	Seeds	1	59	6.9
	Others Mixed	2	98	11.5
	Total :	681	24,840	2,922.2
972-73	Alleppey Green	517	27,884	3,280.5
	Coorg Green	6	234	27.5
	Bleached/Bleachable	1	71	8.4
	Seeds	1	41	4.8
	Others Mixed	—	—	—
	Total :	525	28 230	3,321.2
973-74	Alleppey Green	654	42,895	5,046.5
	Coorg Green	1	70	8.2
	Bleached/Bleachable	3	262	30.8
	Seeds	2	134	15.8
	Other Mixed	2	145	1.6
	Total :	662	43,506	5,102.9
1974-75	Alleppey Green	376	32,614	3,836.9
	Coorg Green	16	1,636	192.5
	Bleached/Bleachable	7	658	77.4
	Seeds	2	185	21.8
	Other Mixed	—	—	—
	Total :	401	35,093	4,128.6
1975-76	Alleppey Green	678	71,926	8,761.9
	Coorg Green	12	1,187	139.6
	Bleached/Bleachable	Neg	23	2.7
	Seeds	—	—	—
	Others Mixed	—	—	—
	Total :	690	73,136	8,904.2

SOURCE: Cardamom Board, India

where there are Bedouins and even the urbanisation in places such as Kuwait, has done little to change the Gahwa tradition.

Consumption of Gahwa is universal among the indigenous population of Kuwait, as it is also in Saudi Arabia and other West Gulf countries. Social mores demand that any visitor to an Arab household should be served three cups of Gahwa. While each cup contains no more than 30 centi-litres, the frequency of the serving occasions is so high that the total volume consumed in a market like Kuwait is considerable.

The ceremony of serving Gahwa is highly ritualised. Before the coffee and cardamom are ground, the cardamom is shown to the guests and the appearence of the cardamom is a major status criterion. Accordingly, there is a primary demand in Kuwait for Cardamom of very good size and consistent blemish-free colour quality.

Concern has been expressed in the exporting trade in India that the Gahwa consumption tradition may be weakening among younger-more Western orientated-Arabs. These investigations can allay this concern; while the younger segment of the population may sometimes adopt European consumption habits prior to marriage, as soon as they establish a home they are forced by social pressures to serve and consume cardamom coffee at as high a rate as their elders.

In addition to Gahwa, there is some usage in cookery but this is mainly among the non-indigenous population.

Calculation of per capita consumption of cardamom in Kuwait, with any degree of accuracy, is virtually impossible. The great majority (in excess of 80 per cent) of all cardamom imported into Kuwait is re-exported to Saudi Arabia. Much of these re-exports are not recorded in official statistics but there is a general consensus in the trade on the proportion exported. After making allowance for these exports, the approximate consumption of cardamom per

annum in Kuwait is in the region of 180-200 grams per person.

CONSUMER PATTERNS

No accurate population statistics are available for Kuwait. The mid-year population estimate for 1975 was 996,000 but estimates as high as 1·2 million have been quoted. Within this total population, the number of native Kuwaitis is equally difficult to quantify. The Kuwait Planning Ministry estimate that about 45 per cent of the population are Kuwaiti; other estimates suggest that this proportion is an overestimate and that Kuwaitis form as little as 33 per cent of the population. However, the native population growth rate is 4.5 per cent per annum, while that for immigrants is only 2,5 per cent.

Among the Kuwaiti nationals, who constitute the prime cardamom consumers, per capita income is estimated to be $ 11,000 per annum. The Arab population is highly conseravtive in its consumption habits. Traditional foods are sacrosanct, to the extent that Kuwaitis will export food to family members living abroad. While shopping habits are changing there is still a strong male purchasing tradition, particularly for cardamom.

The traditional extended family domiciliary unit, with three generations under one roof, is also changing. There is virtually free housing for Kuwaitis but the modern accommodation units are smaller. Virtually every family has at least one servant (frequently Indian or Parkistani) which enables many of the younger women to take up employment, though there is no economic necessity for this.

Kuwait is a Muslim nation and thus religious and social observances are widely adhered to.

A recent survey conducted by an independent data processing firm gives the following demographic breaks, Like most statistics from Kuwait, or elsewhere in the Gulf, these figures can only be in the nature of broad estimates.

Population by Age/Sex
Population 16+ Male 64 per cent:

female 36 per cent.

Total Population 16+	%
Aged 16-24	28
25-34	34
35-44	26
45+	12

SOURCE: Pan Arab Computing Centre

Income statistics are even less reliable. Best estimates are:

Population by monthly income

	%
Under KD 200	19
KD 200-500	64
KD 500+	18

SOURCE: Pan Arab Computing Centre

There are, it is estimated, some 200,000 households in Kuwait, which gives an average household size of 4,98 persons on the lowest population estimate. Household expenditure on average is estimated to be KD 150 per month. The non-indigenous population is composed of Pakistanis, Indians, Palestinians, Egyptians and smaller groups of Europeans, etc. The role of the immigrant is, in marketing terms, of small importance. They enjoy few rights and their participation in the great wealth of Kuwait is minimal. There may be some scope to sell slightly lower grades of cardamom to meet immigrant needs but the distribution system is not structured to cater for these population subgroups.

DISTRIBUTION :

Cardamom is imported into Kuwait, in the main, by specialised cardamam and coffee importers. A full list of active importers is set out in the Annex to this Chapter but new importers emerge and disappear according to market and price conditions, so no importers' list can be considered fully correct. A nucleus of five or six companies constitute the main volume importers.

Importers sell directly to wholesalers who in turn supply the traditional cardamom retail outlets which are small souk stores usually specialising in coffee and cardamom or in spices and pulses.

Trade margins are: Importer – Wholesaler 10 per cent; Wholesaler Retailer 5 - 10 per cent: Retailer-Consumer 10-15 per cent.

Some evidence was seen of retailing of cardamom in consumer prepacks, but in the main cardamom is measured out from bulk by retailers. Average purchase units are estimated to ba as high as 1 kg. at a single time. However, the consumer packs seen were in the 100 g. or 250g. range. All prepacking is carried out by the retailers themselves.

Retail prices vary from month to month, reflecting variations in import prices Prices observed in November 1977 were: KD 10 per kg., equivalent to Rs. 309/-

$ 34.80). These prices were for ood qualities (AGB+), while nedium qualities(AGS equivalent) ere KD 8 per kg. (Rs. 248=: $ 7.90) and the lowest quality AGS equivalent) was KD 6 per g. (Rs. 186= : $ 20.90). All pri-es quoted are full retail.

It is impossible to quantify the number of wholesalers serving the Kuwait market, since the importing trade do not differentiate between Kuwait wholesalers and Saudi wholesalers who constitute the bulk of their customers. It is clear, though, that the trade is becoming more concentrated. One importer claims that the number of buyers from his trading houses has declined from about one hundred in 1960/61 to about twenty today.

Traditional retail outlets for cardamom number 200 approximately. There is, however, a marked change taking place in kuwaiti food retailing. Already, there are twenty supermarkets and, more importantly for marketing cardamem, seventeen Co-operative Societies serving the new housing developments. While supermarkets cater principally for the expatriate population elements, the Co-operatives cater for the native kuwaitis. These Co-operative Stores are State-supervised and rebate their profits to their members who must be kuwaiti nationals. They are large and carry an extensive range of packaged goods and essential foodstuffs. Most foodstuffs, including cardamom, are prepacked – normally by the Society themselves. These Co-operatives import many items on their own account, though they will also buy through the traditional distribution channels. In the case of cardamom they currently buy from the importers or large wholesalers. The importance of Co-operatives can be seen from the fact that they already supply virtually 50 per cent of all food requirement. when fresh vegetables, fruit and meat are excluded. Some staple lines sold through Co-operatives are subsidised by the Government. At present, lines subsidised include rice, sugar, tomato paste, milk powers, baby formulae and flour

The future retail pattern in Kuwait is likely to be highly centred on these Co-operatives. Government pressure is being applied to weed out "non socially responsible" elements in the distribution trade. Accordingly, more licences for supermarkets may be issued and each new housing complex will include a Co operative. It is foreseeable that the central Co-operative organisation (Union of Co-operative Societies) will seek to import cardamom directly which will centralise an important proportion of cardamom buying in Kuwait. Storechecks in Co operatives showed acute out-of-stocks in cardamom, indicating problems in current supply patterns.

The small traditional cardamom and coffee outlets, of which there are about 200 in Kuwait, will continue to play a significant role in the market because they will deliver and extend credit.

Credit lines which are common in all segments of the cardamom trade are in the region of 1-2 months though in periods of peak demand importers may insist on "half-cash" for immediate deliveries, that is, insist on immediate payment of half the value of the order.

IMPORT PRACTICES

Cardamom is at present imported to Kuwait only by traditional merchant/importers, normally direct from the producing countries. In the case of Guatemalan supplies, there is some evidence of importation through European entrepots.

The usual method of purchase is against sample and recognition and use of Agmark grade standards is low in Kuwait. Importers will seek samples and quotations from a number of exporters and in the main there is little loyalty to particular exporters except in the case of one firm with strong links with one of the major exporters in India. Perhaps because of this lack of long-term established links between Kuwaiti importers and individual exporters in India, there are considerable problems with quality standards in the Kuwaiti market. Importers report a high incidence of variation in the quality of the shipment from that of the original sample. This can and has done considerable damage to the reputation of Indian Cardamom. Cardamom from Guatemala is perceived to be of consistent quality - and the top grades, which are the main demand in Kuwait, are more readily available throughout the year from Guatemalan sources.

Imports from India are mainly in moorahs, though the trade have indicated that new white wood cases are more suitable and heavy grade polythene film-minimum 300 grade-is required as liners.

There is little evidence of any business planning by cardamom importers Stocks are sold through mainly on a first-come-first-served basis. This can lead to out-of-stocks arising in important outlets-such as the Co-operative Societies-which is likely to alienate both this segment of the retail trade and the segment of the population served by these outlets.

The importers of cardamom to Kuwait are conditioned in their attitudes by the needs of the Saudi Arabian market, as much as those of the local market. The trade estimate that upto 80 per cent of the cardamom and coffee which they import is sold on to Saudi Arbia While long port delays in Saudi Arbia are partly responsible for this, the primary reason is that Kuwait is the natural market centre for eastern and north-east Saudi Arbia. Wholesalers come to Kuwait as the most convenient buying point and transportation routes by road to Saudi Arabia are convenient and inexpensive.

This extensive trans-shipment to Saudi Arabia is part of the reason for the apparent consumption peak in the Haj festival period In fact, consumption during Haj is not significantly different from that at other times of the year. The heavy demand before the festival is to fill the distribution pipeline before trading ceases during the Haj festival. The border with Saudi Arabia is closed during this festival, which also tends to concentrate demand in the weeks prior to Haj

TARIFFS AND REGULATIONS

There is now no duty levied on imports of cardamom to Kuwait. Goods re-exported, however, are subject to duty of 4 per cent, unless they are imported only "in transit" when a duty of only 0.2 per cent is levied. Handling charges of KD 1.5 for moorahs and KD 4 for cases are levied at Kuwait port.

No other regulations affect the importation of cardamom at present. For all prepacked goods, however, the label in Arabic must state the contents, the date of packaging and the product life expiry date.

PROMOTION

None of the cardamom importers, wholesalers or retailers have undertaken any promotional support for cardamom. Nor has any other cardamom producing country attempted to promote cardamom.

DEMAND ASSESSMENT

Detailed statistical analysis of the demand pattern for cardamom in Kuwait confirms the trade view that there is a firm upward trend of about 5 per cent per annum as of 1976. The trade view, as at November 1977, is of growth of about 10 per cent per annum in recent years, following a decline of about 30 per cent in the early 1970s.

The relationship of demand to incomes, or to prices, cannot be established in Kuwait, since the basic statistical data on which these correlations can be calculated is not available. It can be deduced, however, that price is not at present a major demand constraint since between 1974 and 1975, when export prices rose by 39.5 per cent. demand increased by 24 per cent. And in the first eight months of 1976, when prices rose by 14.7 per cent, demand rose by 9 per cent over the previous complete year.

In making any import demand forecast for Kuwait, it is necessary to take into account the importance of Saudi Arabian demand. A decision to develop further port installations in the north-east of Saudi Arabia, might materially influence the import demand for cardamom from Kuwait. However, no major changes in trading patterns are likely and in the event that there was any major change, a transfer of volume from the Kuwait market to the direct Saudi market would be the most likely result.

However, what could seriously undermine the Kuwait distribution role for cardamom would be any decision to control cardamom marketing in Saudi Arabia. In the event that a price subsidy was implemented there as is currently under consideration in Qatar, it is unlikely that Kuwait would remain the principal supply point for a large geographical segment of the Saudi market.

In those circumstances, the volume forecast for Kuwait alone would be of approximately 10 per cent growth, but on a base of only some 200 tonnes Assuming that there is no radical change in the trading patterns, the anticipated growth in demand for cardamom from Kuwait is also in the region of 5-10 per cent per annum but on a base volume of 1,000 tonnes approximately, 80 per cent of this total volume being re-exported in due course to Saudi Arabia.

PROPOSED STRATEGIES

The primary promotional objective for Indian cardamom producers in Kuwait must be t

Incentive to Exporters of Cardamom Oil/Seeds

An unprecedented increase is reported in the export of cardamom oil, a value added item from India to countries like U S. A, France, G F R , Switzerland and U. K Consequent on this increase, the Board has recommended the Government of India to exempt cardamom oil from payment of export cess. It is expected that this will act as an incentive to the exporters of cardamom oil. It is also felt that the levy of export duty on a less valued item of cardamom seeds at par with costly varieties of cardamom capsules is not justifiable. Accordingly, Board has requested the Government to exempt cardamom seeds from the purview of export duty.

regain their market position. In practice, this means that the decline in market share must be halted and the penetration of Guatemalan cardamom reduced. Promotion of additional consumption in Kuwait at the consumer level is probably not necessary at present, since there is a healthy upward trend in consumption already Moreover, since Kuwaitis only consume one fifth of the cardamom imported, local promotion would have little opportunity to have a siginificant effect on total import demand. At the consumer level, therefore, promotion in Kuwait must be considered in the overall Gulf context, along with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the principal cities of the U. A. E.

The promotional objectives for Kuwait, and for the part of Saudi Arabia which Kuwait supplies, can best be achieved by promotion at the trade level – importers, wholesalers and ratailers – rather than by direct promotion to the consumer. The promotional need is to re-establish the reputation of Indian cardamom in the eyes of the trade – including importers, wholesalers and retailers – and rebuild loyalty in the trade to the Indian supplies. Indian cardamom is still preferred by trade and consumers, but it is now closely matched by the quality of Guatemalan imports. In a relatively short time, if the quality of Indian supplies does not become more consistent, the balance of preference will shift to Guatemalan cardamom. □

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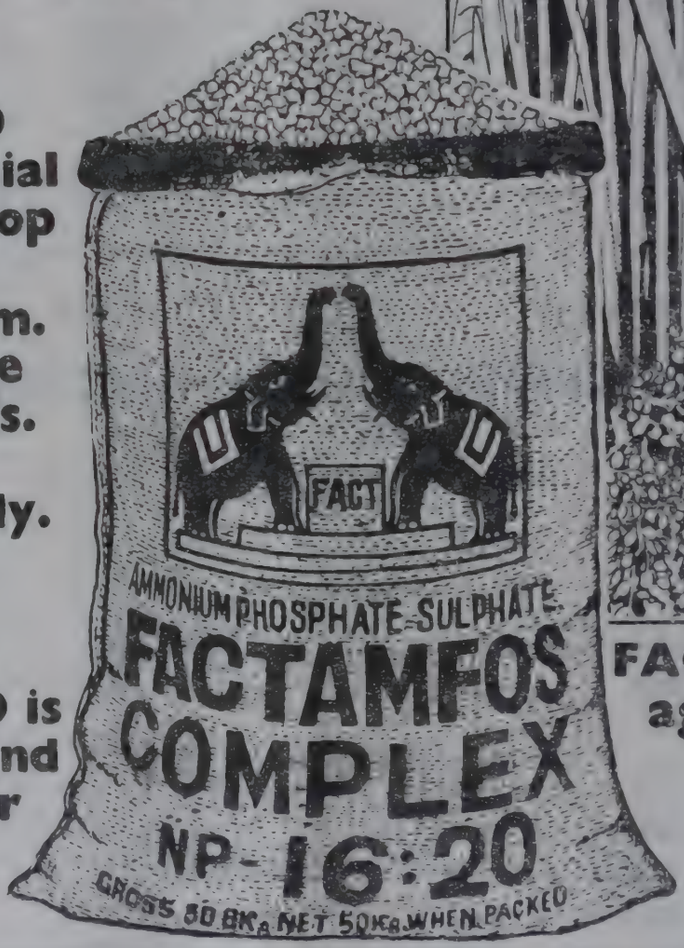

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Salient Features of the Cardamom Project in Wynadu Hills

ANTONY CHERIAN*

The history of cardamom in South India, particularly of Kerala, dates back from time immemorial. However, though cardamom plants were present in Wynadu Hills, in thick evergreen forest since then, its cultivation on commercial basis in this tract is of recent development, when compared to the other cardamom tracts in the State. With the advent of modern know-how, cardamom plantations have developed now in all the 4 Malabar Districts (i. e. Cannanore, Kozhikode, Malappuram and palghat) and it has changed the economic activity of the hitherto remote forest areas in the tract. Availability of forest area suitable for cardamom cultivation and the favourable price situation of cardamom have been the chief factors responsible for the impetus. The recent promulgation of the vested forest 'act', by the State Government had halted the process and this in turn had crippled the scope for further development of cardamom plantation in the tract by private individuals/holdings.

The Government of Kerala, had however, taken note of the vast resources of the area and had decided to implement one of the major schemes under the Western Ghat Development Programme in the tract. As Wynadu Hills is considered to be the abode of tribal people who remain illiterate and exploited, their rehabilitation had attracted the immediate attention of the Government and the Government had decided to implement the cardamom project, under Western Ghat Development programme into a Tribal Welfare Scheme. This is the genesis of the cardamom project in the Wynadu Hills.

Both as a cardamom plantation programme and as a welfare scheme, the target of the programmes included in the project is the biggest of its kind ever known. When fully implemented over a period of 2 to 3 years, in a phased manner, 1500 hectares of forest land in Kunnathidavaka Amsom in Vythiri Taluk, Kozhikode District will be converted into cardamom plantation. And this plantation will be jointly owned by 750 tribal families. Each of the tribal setters in the cardamom plantation raised as above will be owning 2 hectares.

The original programme envisages planting of cardamom in 80 hectares during the first year i. e. 1977, 640 hectares in the second year and the ramaining 780 hectares in the third year and thereby complete the planting programme by 1979. The entire seedlings required for planting in the first year is to be supplied by the Cardamom Board. Seedlings required in the subsequent years will be raised by the project implementing authority. The project implementing authority had set up primary nurseries in 1976 and another one in 1977 for raising the seedlings required for planting in 640 and 720 hectares respectively in 1978 and 1979. The target of these nurseries is the production of 8 lakh standard seedlings during 1978 and another 12 lako standard seedlings during 1979. In terms of extent, the primary nurseries are 8 acres and 12 acres, representing 48 acres and 72 acres respectively at the secondary nursery stages. The nurseries set up under the scheme are the biggest of its kind known.

The tribals who are proposed to be settled in the plantation

*Assistant Director, Central Zone, Cardamom Board, Cochin-18.

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Chulika Estate Meppadi P. O. Kozhikode Dist	-	Area under Cardamom	206 Hects.

A view of the primary nursery

will be given housing and medical facilities. The programme also envisages total socio-economic emancipation of the tribals. Road development in the tract, adult and child education, special nutrition programme are some of the other important items included in the tribal welfare programme associated with the project. The implementation of the project is entrusted to the Deputy Collector (Wynadu Development) under the supervision of the District Collector, Kozhikode; and technical consultancy and guidance on matters relating to cardamom culture is given by the Cardamom Board. Recently, the organisational set up of the management of the scheme was changed and a co-operative farming society was formed for the management of the project with the representatives of the beneficiary tribals, officials of the concerned Government department and the Cardamom Board.

The Cardamom Board is actively associated with the project and the entire technical programme of raising cardamom seedlings in the nurseries and planting of cardamom in the field are supervised and manned by the technical field staff, sent on deputation to the project from Cardamom Board.

The scheme when fully implemented will result in the additional production of a minimum of about 175 M. T. of cardamom valued Rs.225 lakhs, per annum. □

PLANT MORE TREES, URGES BARNALA

"Plant more trees and maintain them well, for with them begins the ecology, the animals, the rains and the soil fertility", Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Surjit Singh Barnala has reminded the countrymen on this year's Vanamahotsava.

Addressing a small gathering at Ateli Mandi, his birth place in Mahendragarh District of Haryana (150 km. away from Delhi), he said everybody should take up tree planting with dedication and seriousness. During the current year, the Government plans to plant 240 million saplings all over the country, he added.

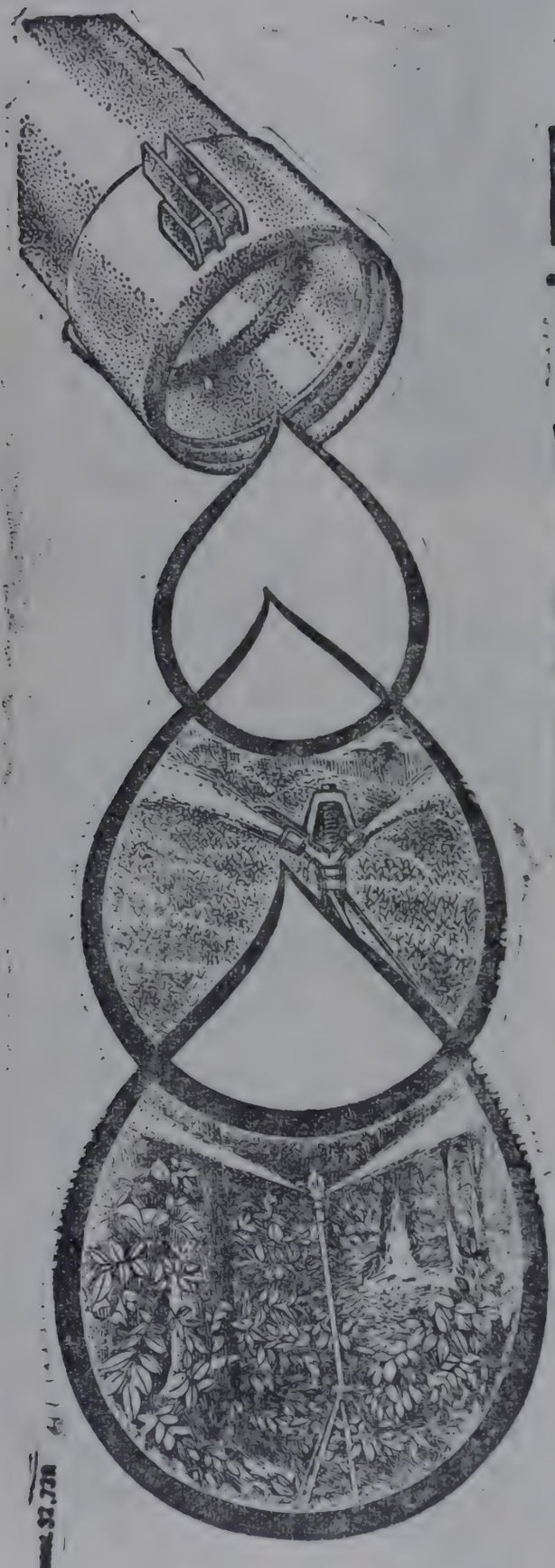
Mr. Barnala himself planted a sappling of bakin in the local school compound and explained that he selected the village of his birth for inaugurating Vanamahotsava because it was a desert-prone area adjoining the Rajasthan desert."

He cited historical evidence to prove that the Rajasthan desert was green once upon a time and that destruction of forests had brought the present condition.

The Agriculture Minister said that 750 million hectares of land under forest in the country was below the recommended minimum for a country like India and explained the need for more afforestation.

Mr Barnala pointed out that the forest area had to be maintained to support the developing agriculture. 'From a nation of food scarcity, We have become marginally self-reliant and started giving food assistance to the neighbouring countries", he said.

INDIAN EXPRESS
JULY 3, 1978



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Production and Export

ODUCTION:

The final estimate of production of Cardamom during 1977-3 is placed at 3900 M.T with ate-wise break up as follows.

ate	Production (M.T)
erala	2900
amilnadu	300
arnataka	700
o t a l :	3900

A very preliminary estimate f production during the ensuing eason (1978-79) is placed at 000 M. T. with state-wise break p as follows.

tate	Production (M.T)
erala	3000
amilnadu	300
arnataka	700
otal :	4000

ALES & WEIGHTED AVERAGE RICES AT AUCTIONS

Auctions during 1977-78 has lready come to an end in Kerala y April 78 itself. However there vere auctions in Tamilnadu and Karnataka after April 78. The tate-wise auction sales and weighted average prices during the urrent season compared to the revious season are given below.

The total sales at auctions during the current year (Aug. 77-June 78 only) was 2945 M. T. as against 1272 M. T. sold during the same period of the previous year.

EXPORTS

As per the reports available from customs authorities the export of cardamom during June 1978 was 111 M.T. valued at Rs. 188.10 lakhs as against 159 M.T valued at Rs 281.57 lakhs during June 77. We have already received the details of exports from the exporters of cardamom for 90 M.T. valued at Rs. 161.64 lakhs for June 78. The average price realised during the month rose to Rs. 179 per Kg from Rs. 167 per kg during the previous month. Details for about 21 M. T. are awaited from the exporters. It is to be noted that export of cardamom to Kuwait during the month was 40 M.T. valued at Rs. 81.08 lakhs. Saudi Arabia imported 13 M.T. valued at Rs.24.82 lakhs. U.S.S R. also took substantial quantity during June 78 importing 20 M.T. valued at Rs. 24.05 lakhs. The average price realised during June 78 from Kuwait was Rs. 205 per Kg while the price for Saudi Arabia was Rs. 194 per Kg. The price realisation from U.S.S.R. was Rs. 123 per Kg.

MONTHS	1977-78 Quantity (Kgs)	Value (Rs)	Unit Value (Rs/Kg)
April	104273	20667368	198.20
May	199617	37229211	186 50
June	159114	28157433	176.96
July	75672	12780100	168 89
August	89619	15791060	176.20
September	87012	14120046	162 28
October	387627	63825845	164.66
November	428156	72720291	169.85
December	545991	97721977	178.98
January	265797	48098261	180.96
February	210548	36589981	173.78
March	209915	36661225	174.65
Total :	2763341	484362798	175.28

STATE :	June 1978 Qty. (M.T)	June 1978 Av.prc. (Rs/Kg)	June 1977 Qty. (M.T)	June 1977 Av. prc. (Rs/Kg)	Aug 77-June 78 Qty. (M.T)	Aug 77-June 78 Av. prc. (Rs/Kg)	Aug 76-June 77 Qty. (M.T)	Aug 76-June 77 Av. prc. (Rs/Kg)
Kerala	—	—	16	131.26	2300	142.55	802	164.16
Tamilnadu	2	86.89	6	105.50	152	115.96	109	146.38
Karnataka	4	131.22	6	112.48	493	106.03	361	146.77
Total :	6	113.04	28	121.97	2945	135.07	1272	157.53

The total sales at auctions during the current year (August 77- June 78 only) was 2945 M.T as against 1272 M.T. sold during the same period of the previous year.

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Export of cardamom during
ril 178-June 78 was 493 M.T
ued at Rs. 8 33 crores against
3 M.T. valued at Rs. 8.61 crores
ring the same period of the
evious year registering an in-
ease of 6 % in terms of quanti-
The average price during the
riod April - May 78 as per de-
ils available, was Rs 171 per
.

Out of the total production of
00 M.T. during 1977-78 season
35 M. T. valued at Rs. 36 97
ores were exported till March
. Export during the off- season
riod April-August 78 is esti-
ated as 618 M.T. valued at Rs.
) 46 crores of which 493 M.T
lued at Rs. 8.33 crores. have
en exported during April -June
3 itself Thus the total export
om 1977 crop (September 77-
ugust 78) is estimated to be
round 2750 M T. valued at Rs.
7.43 crores at an average price
f Rs. 172 per Kg. The balance
f about 1150 M.T. will be for
nternal consumption.

The final figures of export of
ardamom during the financial
ear 1977-78 were 2.763 million
ilogrames (2763 M. T.) valued
t Rs. 484 363 million (Rs 48 44
rores) at an average price of
s.175 28 per Kg. The month -
vise break up of these figures
re given in the previous page

Cardamom oil and other pro-
ducts earned Rs 22 lakhs during
he year Thus the total export
arnings from cardamom / carda-
mom oil/other cardamom products
otalled to Rs. 48.66 crores dur-
ng 1977-78.

□

Other Commodities:

IMPACT OF UNIT PRICES ON TEA EXPORTS

The foreign exchange earnings from tea have been an important feature of India's foreign trade ever since India started exporting tea on a commercial scale in the 1860's. A study of India's tea exports since the 1950's reveals increases in the value of tea exports in 1951-52, 1953-55, 1956-57, 1966-68, 1970-71 and 1974-78. In all these years it is not so much the increase in volume as an increase in unit value realisation that has accentuated the value of our exports. During 1977-78 unit value increased from Rs. 13 04 per Kg to nearly double – Rs. 25/- per kg. In consonance with this, foreign exchange earnings also increased from Rs. 300 crores in 1976-77 to Rs. 550 crores in 1977-78, although the quantity exported actually declined from 230 million kg. in 1976-77 to 225 million kg. in 1977-78. The London Auction Centre which is the oldest and largest tea auction centre in the world has continued to maintain its predominance in controlling the price of bulk tea through the operation of a few buyers against scores of producers.

In consonance with increasing tea prices in the internationa market. India's tea realisation also started rising in the post — 1974 period. The factors which caused an increase in world prices of tea were the following: (a) a reduction in exports of tea from Sri Lanka and Kenya in 1976, (b) an increase in the price of coffee which provided a fillip to the increase in world tea prices and (c) increased production cents in the producing countries caused by an increase in wage rates and an increase in price of fertilizers.

In view of the fluctuating earnings from tea, caused both by the role of the London Auction Centre in manoeuvring the price of tea and by the world prices of demand and supply, the Government of India is encouraging exports of packaged tea tea bags and instant tea. Such exports enjoy a 10% subsidy on the F. O. B. value and exemption from export duty placed on loose and bulk teas since April 9, 1978. Also the tea Board has established a European Office at Brussels to increase such sales in the West European market The main importers of our value added tea are Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia,Sudan. South East Asian and East European countries etc.

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Tribals in their resettled habitates

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As one enters the project area, patches of dense evergreen forests seen on the convergence of the hills welcomes him. And in the midst of these, there are large rocky patches and grass hills too. Surpassing the natural beauty of this God-gifted land is the newly raised cardamom nursery which render a marvellous sight by its growth and greenery spread over an area of about 8 to 12 acres.

NEW HOPE FOR THE TRIBALS

4 km. drive from the Vythiri-ruvana Road through the epy forest land takes one to world's biggest cardamom sery situated on what appears a narrow belt extending about o 10km. on the eastern slope he mountain lying north-so- in Achooranam village in uth Wynad Taluk. In this fo- t land of 1500 hectares in a lies the ambitious scheme plemented by the Government Kerala with the technical sistance of Cardamom Board the rehabilitation of the tribal ople who have remained illi- ate and exploited throughout ages. According to this pro- mme under the Western Ghat

Flourishing growth of seedlings in the partially shaded secondary nursery:

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Panoramic view of the protected nursery

The success of the nursery will e an important factor in the successful implementation of this roject However, the untiring fforts of the staff in the project ave borne fruit in its prime effort self and this is manifest in the ush green growth of the cardaom nursery. In the beginning the fficials in the project really had tough time. But now they have earned to live with the problems hat often entail such a Herculean enture. In the first year planting will be undertaken in 80 ectares and 640 hectares in the ext year This will require 9 akh seedlings. During third ear planting will be undertaken n 780 hectares with the seedlings roduced in 72 acres of secondry nursery.

The project authorities have a very heavy burden on their shoulders since this is a scheme intended for the rehabilitation of the tribal people who are poor and landless. In order to instill in them a sense of security and responsibility each settler is made to work in the nursery and the plantation area. He is also paid wages according to the existing rules of the Plantation Labour Act. Apart from this, the Government has also implemented further development programmes for the uplift of the tribals. Another aspect of this project is that only tribals are employed for work in the project. They are given free housing and medical facilities. Other activities aimed at their socio-economic emancipation include adult and child education special nutrition programme, recreational facilities, road development in the tract etc. The project area is blessed by two perennial water sources. One is the river near Vythiri and the second source is at the northern end of the area. Around 600 tribals are now working in the project area of which 400 are residing in the free houses constructed under the scheme More houses are being constructed by the authorities. The project as a whole has an employment potential of 3000. However, it is a sad commentary to relate that the project authorities find it difficult to get sufficient tribals for work despite their best attempts.

The scheme when implemented completely is expected to yield 225 M. T. of cardamom per year. This is expected to earn Rs. 225/- lakhs at the rate of an average price of Rs 100/- per kg. In order to help the tribals to get better prices a co operative society also has been registered. Apart from the Government officials, Board officials etc , the representatives of the tribals also will be members of this society known as South Wynad Girijan Joint Farming Co-operative Society. This agency will take the responsibility of harvest, curing, marketing etc. Since curing is a big problem confronted by small growers, a few curing houses will be established by the Co-operative society

Finally, the cardamom plantation programme under the Western Ghat Development Scheme is expected to play a double role. It will give a new ray of hope to the tribals who have so far been trampled upon by their exploiters. It will restore the precious forest wealth since cardamom is a shade loving plant

– Ceepee

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HEXASULFAN 35 E.C.•4% DUST
MONOCROTOPHOS 40
HEXAGOR 30 E.C.
HEXAFEN 50 E.C.
CUPRAMAR
MALAMAR 50 E.C.•5% DUST
AND OTHER PESTICIDES

Thrips

Aphids

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HEXAMAR HOUSE BOMBAY-400 025 • MADRAS, 600 019

ales and Prices at Cardamom Auctions

Centre	JUNE 1978 Date	Sales (kgs.)	Rate Rs. / kg. Max.	Min.	Av.	JUNE 1977 Date	Sales (kgs.)	Rate Rs. / kg. Max.	Min.	Av.
ndanmettu	—	—	—	—	—	11.1.1977	16109	200.90	41.00	131.26
dumbanchola	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
nthanpara	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
allar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ochin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
attiveeranpatty	4.6.1978	1572	157.50	113.00	71.12	19.6.1977	3947	175.60	80.00	104.47
	18.6.1978	1068	195.00	72.20	110.10					
Mangalore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mercara	2.6.1978	817	135.00	102.00	113.09	—	—	—	—	—
irsi	28.6.1978	181	138.75	25.76	130.19	22.6.1977	237	135.15	27.35	94.73
Saklespur	6.6.1978	1783	143.30	98.00	130.89	2.6.1977	630	168.30	20.00	123.20
	8.6.1978	325	138.00	133.50	131.65	8.6.1977	269	138.50	100.00	128.42
	16.6.1978	370	148.00	144.00	145.81	8.6.1977	380	164.60	63.00	111.01
	19.6.1978	374	168.00	138.00	141.36	9.6.1977	737	159.10	40.00	175.70
						14.6.1977	950	140.00	76.60	104.10
						15.6.1977	337	166.20	42.00	112.80
						22.6.1977	150	102.00	102.00	102.00
						22.6.1977	612	128.00	85.00	108.46
						25.6.1977	994	140.00	71.00	112.79
						29.6.1977	248	175.00	100.00	124.01

SINGAPORE

Variety	Prices During May 1978 S$ per picul.	Rs./kg.	June 1978 S $ per picul.	Rs.kg
Green Sri Lanka	3200.00	189.95	2900.00	172.14
Small-Sri Lanka	—	—	2900.00	172.14
Green-India	—	—	2700.00	160.27
White-"AB"	2425.00	143.95	2315.00	137.42

Source: High Commission of India, Singapore.
Note: 1S$ = Rs. 3.59
1 picul = 60.479 kg.

ERRATUM

The statement in Page 5 Column 2 by Shri K M. Apaiah, Field Manager, Consolidated Limited., Pollibetta in the May-June issue may be read as "Shri K. M. Apaiah, Consolidated Coffee Estates Limited, Pollibetta. stated that bold size or exportable cardamom is mostly obtained from the first three rounds of harvest and in the later rounds the percentage of expert quality cardamom will gradually be reduced. The main problem with the electrical drier is that when there is power failure the cardamom tends to sweat which will bleach the cardamom partially and tells upon the quality". The error is regretted -Editor

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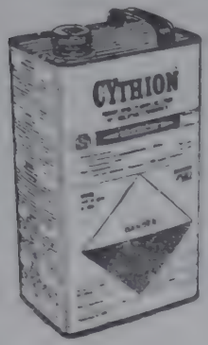

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NEWS AND NOTES

Land Reforms in Sikkim

Sikkim is going ahead with its plans to implement land reforms in the State. For this the Sikkim Agricultural Land Ceiling and Reforms Act 1977 has been enforced with effect from June 22. Under the Act, the ceiling has been fixed at 6.5 standard acres for an adult unmarried person; in the case of a person having a family of not more than five persons the ceiling has been fixed at 12.5 standard acres and a further two standard acres for each member in excess of five has been provided; however, the aggregate ceiling limit for such a person shall not, in any case, exceed 20.5 standard acres.

The authorities have yet to make a preliminary estimate of the surplus land that is likely to be available with the Government for distribution among the landless.

According to the notification, excess land in possession of a family beyond the ceiling limit now vests with the Government. Futher transfer, sale or lease of land from June 22 has been banned.

Towards the end of 1974(about six months before the State's merger with the Indian Union) the Kazi Government had appointed a committee under Mr. Narbahadur Khatiwada, the then president of the Sikkim Pradesh Youth Congress, to study the issue of land reforms and submit its report by the and of the year. For a few months the committee toured the State and submitted its report in time. But nothing more is known about the report and its recommendations.

At a function marking the enforcement of the Act on June 22 the Minister for Land reforms, Mr. R. C Poudyal, said that land reforms in the State would be implemented in the next six months.

Survey on Large Cardamom

The Government of India have decided to bring the Ammomum Cardamom under the purview of the Cardamom Act 1965 to be dealt with by the Cardamom Board with reference to all aspects of development, marketing, exports etc. As a preamble to the implimentation of the above decision a team consisting of Shri John M. John, Assistant Director and Shri K. P. Nambiar, Administrative Officer, Carda-Board visited Sikkim and Darjeeling District of West Bengal to make an on-the-spot study of the various aspects of the large cardamom plantation industry in those areas. The team had discussions with the officials of the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry in Sikkim, scientists of the ICAR etc.

The field study conducted by the team in Sikkim revealed that the cultivation of cardamom in Sikkim suffers from a number of drawbacks in the areas of cultivation, marketing etc

Importers should have a Sense of Guarantee

—MOHAN DHARIA

The Government of India is considering to amend the Export Inspection Act with more stringent regulations for quality control.

Disclosing this recently, Mr Mohan Dharia, Union Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Co-operation said that his Ministry was working out details of the amendment in consultation with the Law Ministry. He favoured strong action against those who might try to export substandard goods, thereby bringing a bad name to the country. Mr. Dharia was inaugurating the seventh national conference on quality control organised by the Indian Statistical Institute. "Let us all have concerted efforts so that whatever is exported from India acquires a good name in the foreign market", he said and added that "Foreign buyers should have a sense of guarantee when they purchase any product made in India. They should feel always assured when they find it is Indian".

TRADE ENQUIRIES

1. M/s G. R. S. Enterprises Ltd.,
   5811, "C" Cedarbridge Way,
   Richmond, B.C. V6 X 2A8, Canada.
2. Devassy Vad Kancherry, Kolpinghaus,
   St. Apermstr 32, 5 Koln 1,
   West Germany.
3. Samuel B. Vawah
   Providence M & E Services,
   P. O. Box 2089, Monrovia, Liberia. □

17 lakh for Cardamom development

The Agricultural Refinance Development Corporation (ARDC) has approved various schemes for the development of coconut, rubber, cocoa, cardamom, dairying and pepper costing nearly Rs. 22 crores in Kerala.

Of Rs 22 crores, Rs 13 crores would be advanced for coconut fresh plantation and rehabilitation. It has been proposed to bring about 20000 acres of land under coconut.

Under the scheme Cardamom would get 17 lakhs. The share of other produces would be as follows. Cocoa—Rs 75 lakhs; rubber—Rs 99 lakhs and dairying — Rs 17 lakhs.

K. V. George:

Part-Time Director Of
Andaman And Nicobar Islands
Forest & Plantation Development Corporation

Cochin, August 10, 197

Government of India has appointed Sh K.V. George, Director, Cardamom Developmen Cardamom Board, Ernakulam as part-time Goverr ment Director on the Board of Directors of Anda man and Nicobar Islands, Forests and Plantatio Development Corporation Ltd. This appointmer has been made in the vacancy of Prof K.M. Chand Since 1967 Shri George is working with Cardamo Board as Director of Cardamom Development.

Trunk Exchange at Bodinayakanur

Considering the business importance of Bod nayakanur, the trunk exchange at Bodinayakan has been connected by an operator diallin circuit with Madras Trunk Automatic exchang from 24-6-1978. This will enable the Telephor Operators of Bodinayakanur to dial directly to a the stations connected to the Trunk Automat Exchange network in the country and put throug the calls without delay.

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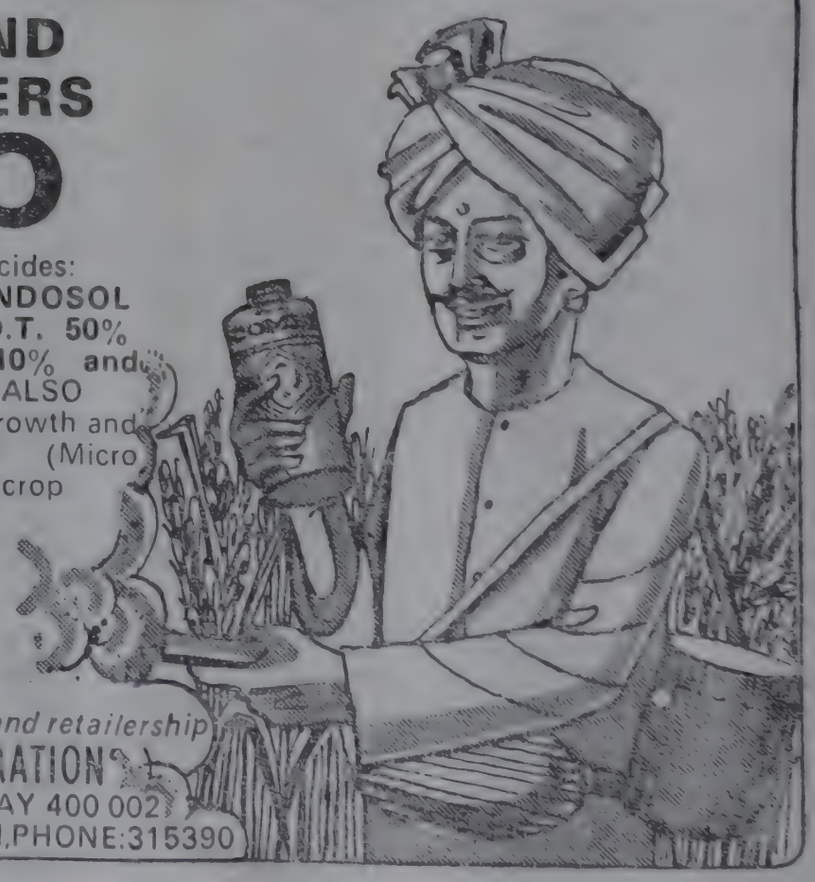

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TRADING WITH ARAB COUNTRIES

Trade between India and vari-
s Arab countries has been on
e increase over the past five
ars. The Arab countries of
est Asia and North Africa are:
nited Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi,
ubai etc.), Bahrain, Kuwait,
man, Qatar, Iraq, Saudi Arabia,
ordan, Lebanon, Syria, People's
emocratic Republic of Yemen,
emen Arab Republic, Arab Re-
ublic of Egypt, Sudan, Algeria,
ibya, Morocco and Tunisia.

The value of India's exports to
ese Arab countries in 1973-74
as of the order of Rs. 1,744
illion. The exports rose to Rs
,252 million in 1974-75 register-
ng an increase of 138 per cent
ver the previous year. The ex-
orts further advanced to Rs
.722 million in 1975-76 record-
ng a marginal increase of 11 per
ent over the previous year. In
976-77, there was a substantial
ncrease in exports and their
alue amounted to Rs. 6,968
illion showing an increase of 48
er cent. Complete trade statis-
ics for 1977-78 are not yet avai-
able.

India's exports moved up from
Rs.36 million in1973-74 to Rs.254
million in 1976-77 in case of Abu
Dhabi; Rs. 224 million to Rs.
1352 million (Dubai); Rs. 90
million to Rs. 235 million (Bah-
rain); Rs. 213 million to Rs. 1,130 million (Kuwait); Rs. 62 million to Rs. 300 million (Oman); Rs. 70 million to Rs. 193 million (Qatar); Rs. 203 million to Rs. 466 million (Iraq); Rs. 261 million to Rs. 751 million (Saudi Arabia); Rs. 37 to Rs. 106 million (Jordan); Rs. 25 million to Rs. 40 million (Syria); Rs. 57 million to Rs. 74 million (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen); Rs. 27 million to Rs. 445 million (Yemen Arab Republic); Rs. 148 million to Rs. 908 million (Arab Republic of Egypt); Rs. 186 million to Rs. 512 million (Sudan); Rs. 2 million to Rs. 24 million (Algeria) ; Rs. 51 million to Rs. 131 million (Libya) and Rs. 12 million to Rs. 35 million (Tunisia). However, in the case of Lebanon and Morocco, exports decreased during the above period.

Taking the Arab countries of different regions, India's exports to gulf countries were of the order of Rs. 1,570 million during April-September 1977 compared with Rs. 1,460 million during corresponding period in 1976. The share of other West Asian Countries in the exports during the same period in 1977 was Rs. 1,050 million as against Rs. 810 million in 1976. The value of exports to Arab and African countries during the above period in 1977 amounted to Rs. 770 million compared with 1,010 million in the same period in 1976. India's exports to almost all Arab countries have been increasing, except in the case of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

Principal items exported to Arab countries are: tea, spices, vegetable and fruit products, sugar, meat and meat products textiles, clothing, jute goods, medical and pharmaceutical products, chemical items, barytes, plastic goods, iron and steel items, electric and non-electric machinery, transport equipment, manufactures of metals and various other engineering goods.

Among the Arab countries, India has trade agreements with Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. A trade agreement with Yemen Arab Republic has been initialled and is to be signed in the near future. A new trade agreement with Egypt has also been initialled in October 1977. With Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, India has set up joint commissions. Matters relating to trade are also discussed at the meetings of these joint commissions. □

CULTIVATION OPERATIONS

SEPTEMBER

	South West Monsoon areas (Kerala-Tamilnadu)	North East Monsoon areas (Tamilnadu)	South West Monsoon areas (Karnataka)
Primary Nursery	No work.	Watering and routine upkeep-Selection of high yielding and disease - free plants for seed collection for the next season's primary nursery.	Collection of seed capsule and preparation of seeds Sowing in lines. Cover seed with a thin layer of soil an mulch with Lantana or paddy straw - Regular watering collection of pandal materials
Secondary Nursery	First round weeding continued and completed-Routine plant protection measures for control of pests and diseases - Watering as required-earthing up and rectifying beds to be taken up during break in Monsoon rains.	Routine upkeep and watering in the existing secondary nursery. In the new site, second round digging-collection of pandal materials	Routine watering, plant protection and weeding.
Starting of New Plantations	No work.	First round weeding	Weeding - Scuffing – application of farm yard manure compost and steamed animal meal - spray Bordeaux mixture along with suitable insecticides.
Maintenance of Plantations	First round harvest continued and completed-second round weeding continued - thrips control–First round of maintenance of footpaths and drainage channels - shade regulation - Fork digging - manuring if there is a break in the rains,	First round harvest continued -Thrips control.	Second round manuring spraying Bordeaux mixtur along with suitable insecticid -crop harvest, curing, storag etc.

OCTOBER

Primary Nursery	Selection of disease-free and high yielding cardamom plants for collection of seeds.	Watering as required and routine upkeep. Cleaning site for the new primary nursery, digging, removal of roots and stones, collection of jungle soil.	When uniform germinatio is observed remove mulch an erect shade pandals-Mulchin beds with paddy husk-routi watering-Spraying mixture Bordeaux and suitable insec cide as a prophylactic measur If damping off disease is no ced drench beds with Bordea mixture 1%.

	South West Monsoon areas (Kerala - Tamilnadu)	North East Monsoon areas (Tamilnadu)	South West Mansoon areas (Karnataka)
Secondary Nursery	Routine plant protection measures-watering as required-First round manuring if necessary with Ammonium phosphate followed by mulching	Routine watering and upkeep. In the new site, formation of beds; spreading jungle soil-construction of shade pandals.	Routine watering, plant protection and weeding.
Starting of New Plantations	Second round weeding.	First roundweedingcontinued clearing footpaths, drainage channels and routine upkeep continued.	watch and ward and routine maintenance.
Maintenance of Plantations	Second round harvest - thrips control - shade regulation continued.Fork digging continued-forming basins around one year old plants to prevent soil wash Manuring if delayed due to heavy rains.	Second round harvest-thrips control - clearing drainage channels and footpaths - second round weeding.	Watch and ward—crop harevest, curing, storge etc. Manuring and spraying continued and completed.

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Thrips

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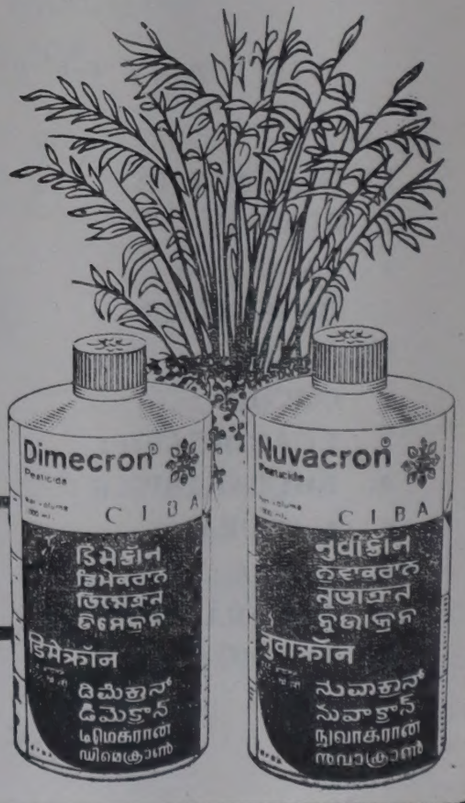
NUVACRON for the control of Thrips.



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5	**MADRAS :**	1/155, Mount Road	,,	85787
6	**COCHIN :**	Karuna, M. G. Road, Opp Kavitha Theatre.	,,	35277
7.	**CHANDIGARH :**	S. C. O. 85, Sector 17-C.	,,	25753
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